

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A fault message system, comprising;

a plurality of spatially distributed production units, each production unit comprising means for generating and indicating fault signals, each production unit being associated with a transmitting unit configured for wirelessly transmitting the fault signals, wherein two or more of said production units are arranged to form at least one group;

a fault alarm box configured for receiving the fault signals and forwarding fault messages;

a process computer configured for receiving the fault messages from the fault alarm box; and

at least one stationary data receiving unit configured for transmitting the fault signals to the fault alarm box, the at least one stationary data receiving unit comprising a lamp, the at least one stationary data receiving unit configured for wirelessly receiving the fault signals from the at least one group and indicating the fault signals, the lamp being configured for visually displaying the fault signals;

wherein a particular one of the at least one group is associated with a particular one of the at least one stationary data receiving unit.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The fault message system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fault alarm box is connected to the process computer via a network connection.

4. (Previously Presented) The fault message system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the network connection is a LAN connection.

5. (Previously Presented) The fault message system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the process computer is connected to other computers via a second network.

6. (Previously Presented) The fault message system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fault alarm box comprises a data editing unit.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for outputting fault messages from a number of spatially distributed production units forming at least one group of production units, the method comprising:

generating a method fault signal by at least one of said production units,
wirelessly transmitting, from the at least one of said production units, the method fault signal to a stationary data receiving unit,
visually displaying the method fault signal with a lamp in the stationary data receiving unit,
forwarding, from the stationary data receiving unit, said method fault signal to a fault alarm box,

wirelessly transmitting a fault message from said fault alarm box to one or more data receiving devices configured for receiving and indicating fault messages, and

transmitting the fault message from said fault alarm box to a process computer.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 7, wherein the fault signals of the production units are edited in the fault alarm box for conversion into fault messages.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein a fault signal is only converted into a fault message in the fault alarm box when it is present for a predetermined period of time.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein a fault signal is only converted into a fault message in the fault alarm box when a particular period of time has elapsed since the last presence of the previous fault signal.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the fault message is supplied to the process computer at a different time than the fault message is supplied to said data receiving devices.

13. (Previously Presented) A fault message system; comprising:

a plurality of production units, wherein each production unit is associated with a transmitting unit configured for wirelessly transmitting fault signals relating to said production unit;

at least one stationary data receiving unit configured for wirelessly receiving the fault signals from at least one of the plurality of production units, the at least one stationary data receiving unit comprising a lamp for visually displaying the fault signals;

at least one group comprising a number of said production units, wherein a particular one of the at least one group is associated with a particular one of the at least one stationary data receiving unit which is configured for wirelessly receiving fault signals transmitted by the transmitting unit associated with any production unit in said group;

a fault alarm configured for receiving the fault signals from said stationary data receiving unit; and

a process computer configured for receiving a fault message from said fault alarm.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a receiving device for receiving the fault message from said fault alarm.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the receiving device is a mobile telephone.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said fault message is sent in the form of an SMS.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, comprising a plurality of groups.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein each group is comprised of production units of an individual production line.

19. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said production units are spatially separated.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said fault signals are transmitted via wireless transmission.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said process computer is adapted to document and evaluate fault messages from said fault alarm.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said process computer is connected to said fault alarm via a network connection.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said fault alarm has a data editing means for determining when to send the fault message from said fault alarm.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said fault alarm is adapted to send said fault message only when a fault signal received by said stationary data receiving unit is present for a first predetermined period of time.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said fault alarm is adapted to send a second fault message only when a second predetermined period of time has passed following the end of the fault signal present for the first predetermined period of time.

28. (Previously Presented) A method for outputting fault messages; comprising:
generating a first fault signal at a production unit of a group of production units;

wirelessly transmitting said first fault signal from the production unit to a stationary data receiving unit associated with said group;

visually displaying the first fault signal with a lamp associated with the stationary data receiving unit;

transmitting said first fault signal from said stationary data receiving unit to a fault alarm;

determining whether to send a fault message from said fault alarm to at least one data receiving device or process computer; and

transmitting a first fault message generated by said fault alarm to the at least one data receiving device or the process computer.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 further comprising sending said first fault message only when said first fault signal is present in the fault alarm for a predetermined period of time.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 further comprising generating a rising signal while said first fault signal is present in said fault alarm, and sending said first fault message only when said rising signal exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 further comprising sending a second fault message from said fault alarm in response to a second fault signal received after sending said first fault message, wherein said second fault message is sent only if a predetermined period of time has elapsed following the end of said first fault signal.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said first fault message is sent to the data receiving device and the process computer at different time intervals.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the fault alarm box is connected to a plurality of stationary data receiving units.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the fault alarm box determines whether a fault signal should result in the issuance of a fault message.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein each data receiving unit is wirelessly connected to more than one of the plurality of production units.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the fault alarm is connected to a plurality of stationary data receiving units.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein each data receiving unit is wirelessly connected to more than one of the plurality of production units.